**Ethics Reflection**

Answer 2 of the following reflection questions; write at least 150 words on each.

1. How important is consistency in moral reasoning?
2. Does History show we have made moral progress?
3. Are scientists morally responsible for how their discoveries are used? Refer to one or more natural sciences as an area of knowledge?
4. Is ethics more a matter of the head or the heart?

Remember to use Key TOK language and refer to Ways Of Knowing and Areas Of Knowledge

**1) How important is consistency in moral reasoning?**

Being moral is what we consider to be doing something that’s ‘right’. The basic morals we know are being honest, not hurting anyone intentionally, respecting others and their cultures etc. In reality no one is ever consistent in moral reasoning and often does what best suits them. However in ethics and for everyone being consistent with morals is what is expected even though we know it doesn’t always happen. The ways of knowing that would be involved here would be perspective, reasoning and emotion.

For example if a man is having an affair (cheating on his wife) however ends the affair and comes to you asking for advice as to whether he should tell his wife or not, your perspective, reason and emotion would be different to if you were in the man’s situation. You would tell him that it would be morally correct to tell his wife as she has a right to know and that even though she would be hurt and there is a risk of losing her, it is the right thing to do. However if you were in his situation your whole view of it would change. You wouldn’t want to tell your partner of the affair in fear of losing her or facing in other consequences that would come with it. You wouldn’t want to hurt her and wouldn’t feel that you need to tell her as the affair has ended anyways.

If we go back to determining how important consistency is in moral reasoning I would say that it is quite important as it would make this world a better and more trustworthy place. However if we look at reality we can say that moral consistency changes according to the situation you are in. This may not be ethically right but it is true.

**4) Is ethics more a matter of the head or heart?**

Ethics can be defined as simply being moral. So in other words what is ‘right’ and what is ‘wrong’? There are different things that can affect a person’s ethical point of view such as the way one is brought up, religion/beliefs, emotion etc. if we consider the Ways of Knowing we can say that if the heart is used in ethics then that is the same as using emotion when being moral. If we say the head is used in ethics then that is the same as using reason when being moral. Personally I think that a bit of both is used in ethics. An example of using your head would be if you’re offered help to cheat on a test you would say no as it is wrong and if you get caught you would be in trouble and also you were brought up with the fact that cheating is wrong. An example of using your heart: if you saw a kid being bullied you would feel sorry for them and maybe attempt to try stopping it either yourself or by telling a teacher.

There are some and maybe most cases where both your head and heart are used. For example, if you know your friend stole something and you were questioned as to whether it is true or not, in terms of reason or ‘using your head’ you can say that it would be morally correct to speak the truth and reveal that your friend did steal, however if you use emotion or your heart you wouldn’t want your friend to get in trouble and would be tempted to lie in order to get them out of trouble. That is when you're at a point as to whether you should follow your heart or mind.